

the  
alert  
is sent.....



do you know its  
intent?

**Prepared by the Kentucky Severe Storms Preparedness Committee**

American Red Cross  
Kentucky Educational Television  
Kentucky Department of Education  
Kentucky State Police  
Kentucky Division of Emergency Management

Kentucky Broadcasters Association  
Kentucky Press Association  
Kentucky Division of Water  
National Weather Service  
State Farm Insurance

NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)  
Kentucky Cable Telecommunications Association

# be a Storm Survivor

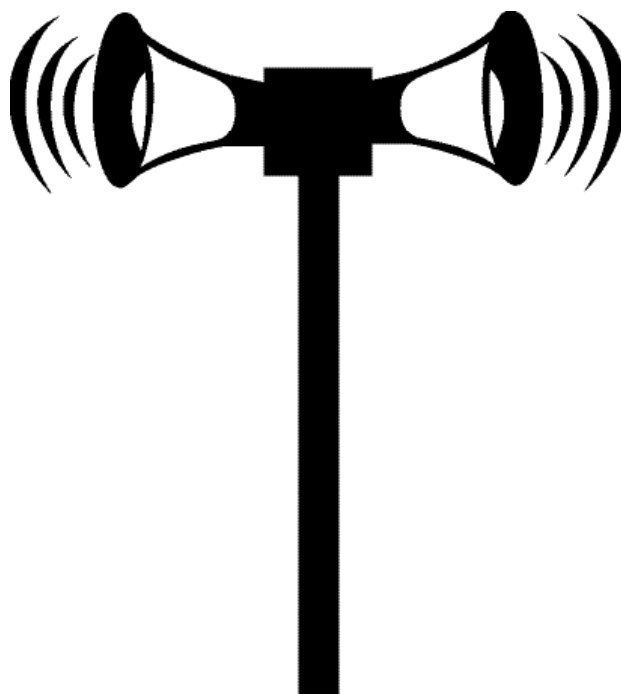
## Outdoor Warning Sirens

We've all heard the penetrating drone of outdoor warning sirens. But when do they sound, and why? Signals may vary, but there's only one meaning. When the siren sounds, take shelter. The National Weather Service has determined two weather conditions for siren use. A steady tone, lasting five minutes means a tornado warning, or a severe thunderstorm warning during a tornado watch. Outdoor warning sirens are an integral part of a comprehensive warning system. They are, as the name implies, primarily for warning citizens when outdoors. Those inside may not hear the sirens and should depend more on NOAA weather radio and commercial broadcasters for their severe weather warning.

## Emergency Alert System

The Federal Communications Commission in November of 1994 established the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The EAS replaced the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) as a tool the President and others may use to warn the public about emergency situations.

The system provides state and local officials with a method to quickly send out important local emergency information targeted to a specific area. Most recently, Kentucky added the Amber Alert to the list of messages distributed by EAS. (Amber Alert provides valuable information on children who are victims of hostile abduction.) The information can be sent out through a broadcast station and cable system even if those facilities are unattended. Also, the EAS digital signal is the same signal that the National Weather Service (NWS) uses on NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). This allows NWR signals to be decoded by the EAS equipment at broadcast stations and cable systems. Broadcasters and cable operators can then retransmit NWS weather warning messages almost immediately to their audiences.



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## Weather Radios

NOAA Weather radios are fastest for instant information about severe weather watches and warning in your area. These specially equipped radios pick up broadcasts from your area's National Weather Radio 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In severe weather situations, your NOAA Weather Radio will sound an alarm anytime severe weather threatens if it is equipped with a Tone Alert feature. Newer models can be programmed to sound alert for specific counties. Ask your local electronics retailer about "S.A.M.E" (Specific Area Message Encoding) model radios. They can also help program your radio before you leave the store.

**You can listen to the broadcast no matter where your workplace may be.**

### At Home

Be warned of approaching storms so you can seek shelter before the storm arrives.

### While Boating or Camping

Available in many coastal and wilderness areas and in campgrounds and state parks.

### Available to travelers on highways across the nation :

Many rest areas provide NOAA broadcasts.

### At play

Include a weather radio with sports equipment when inclement weather is possible.

# be a Storm Survivor at home

## Be prepared!

Know the safest place in your home and designate it as your "Safe Space". Don't wait for a storm is arrival to do this.

## Know the danger signs

When a WATCH is issued, go about your business but check on changing weather conditions about every 15-30 minutes. When a WARNING is issued for your area, go to your Safe Space immediately! Stay away from outside walls, windows and doors. Cover your head and neck with your hands.

## Know where to go

Going underground for shelter is best, such as a basement. If you have no basement, go to the center-most room on the lowest level of your home. This might be a bathroom, closet or interior hallway. In manufactured homes, you are advised to leave it and find a more secure shelter or lie flat in a ditch until the danger passes. \*

\*For more helpful tips to stay in a mobile home, refer to the FETA and KMHC information in the back of this booklet.

In multi-level or high rise buildings, go to the smallest center room or hallway away from glass windows and open areas.

## STORM SURVIVAL TIP

You should designate a "Safe Space" in your home long before storms threaten. Include these items in your shelter:

- Flashlight
- Batteries
- Battery operated radio
- Whistle
- Emergency phone numbers
- First aid kit
- Gloves
- Extra shoes
- Drinking water
- Non-perishable food

# be a **Storm Survivor** at work

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## **Check the weather early!**

It's always a good idea to check your local forecast before leaving for work each day. Whatever your source—TV, radio, NOAA weather radio, internet or newspaper, one or more of these sources should give you ample "heads-up" of possible severe weather that day.

## **Know the "Safe Spots" in your workplace**

Most workplaces have designated storm shelters that are clearly marked. If not, contact your manager or supervisor to discuss developing a severe weather procedure for all of your fellow employees.

When severe weather strikes, avoid wide-open buildings and warehouses. Locate the smallest possible room nearest to you and get under something sturdy. Stay away from any outside walls, windows and doors—especially large bay doors and loading docks.

It's also a good idea for someone to monitor the progress of impending severe weather through media, Internet or by a NOAA weather radio with a tone alert siren.

## **STORM SURVIVAL TIP**

When at work and severe weather approaches, always:

- move to the lowest floor level
- find the center-most room
- stay away from outside windows
- prepare for power failure

# be a Storm Survivor at play

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## **Always watch the skies!**

It's up to each one of us to closely monitor changing weather while enjoying the great outdoors. Keep a battery powered radio with you at all times and listen for severe weather threats in your area.

Don't wait for the storm to hit—check on the latest forecast as soon as you see dark skies approaching!

When storm clouds loom overhead, make sure any outdoor games are postponed and everyone is moved to a secure shelter. Put down golf clubs and any metal objects.

## **What if you're caught outside?**

Thunder is the sound lightning makes, so even though you may not have seen a flash, there was lightning and it can strike at long distances. Keep away from metal buildings, trees, fences and water. These are all attractive to lightning. Hurry to the nearest indoor shelter.

## **STORM SURVIVAL TIP**

Lightning is one of nature's worst killers. If you're caught in the open and you cannot seek shelter from lightning, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet—place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Do not lie down! Make yourself the smallest target possible. In flash floods, never attempt to cross flooded roadways. Most deaths from flooding are caused when vehicles are washed away by raging floodwaters.

# be a Storm Survivor at school

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## Watch for changing weather

Monitor impending severe weather with a NOAA weather radio that is equipped with a tone alert siren. This will serve to warn school administrators quickly if a severe weather warning is issued for your district.

## Know the "Safe Spots" in your school

New Kentucky law (amendment to KRS 158.163 School Safety) requires all schools to designate a "safe area" for students and faculty to seek shelter from the storm. These areas must be clearly marked and easily accessible in the event of a weather emergency. Tornado drills must now be exercised twice during the school year.

The safest areas in your school are likely to include main hallways away from windows and outside doors. Students should kneel down, face the wall and cover their heads and necks with their hands.

## The safest place is in the school

If school is about to dismiss and severe weather is occurring or is about to strike, it's best to hold all students until the danger passes. One of the most dangerous places to be in severe weather is in a school bus or automobile.

## STORM SURVIVAL TIP

When severe weather approaches, stay away from these areas:

- Gymnasium
- Large span rooms
- Auditorium
- Classrooms with windows



# be a Storm Survivor at the wheel

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## **Never try to outrun the storm!**

Storms are best survived in a secure shelter, but can also be survived in an automobile by following some practical guidelines. While traveling, always check the latest weather conditions by radio. If you know you're about to approach severe storms, find the safest route around the weather if you can.

If you should happen to approach a tornado or one is approaching you, stop your vehicle immediately—get out of it—and find a ditch or a substantial building for shelter.

## **Always in control**

Severe storms, tornadoes, flash flooding and intense straight-line winds can cause you to lose control of your vehicle. Always hold the steering wheel at the "10 and 2 o'clock" positions. If there have been heavy rains, be aware of hydroplaning on rain slick highways.

Watch out for fallen debris from severe storms such as trees and power lines. Never attempt to cross flooded roadways—even if you feel you know how deep it is. Your vehicle could stall and you might become trapped inside.

## **STORM SURVIVAL TIP**

Keep a storm survival kit in your vehicle at all times. Items such as a first aid kit, flashlight, blankets, ice melting solution and tools should always be stored in your car for weather emergencies. Having cellular phone access adds security and will aid you in reaching help quickly by dialing 911.



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## **SEVERE WEATHER**

## **INJURIES**

## **DEATHS**

Tornadoes	7	1
Severe Thunderstorms	8	0
Lightning	1	0
Floods	1	1

## **TOTAL NUMBER OF SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS**

Tornadoes	13
Severe Thunderstorms	523
Floods	165

## **TORNADOES**

MARCH 18-23 : HEAVY RAINS CAUSED 26.5 MILLIONS DOLLARS IN DAMAGE ALONG THE CUMBERLAND RIVER

APR 28 BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY - F2 TORNADO 2.5 ENE CLOVERPORT TO 1W IRVINGTON, A PATH LENGTH OF 11 MILES

APR 28 BRECKINRIDGE INTO MEADE COUNTY - F0 TORNADO 1.7 SE GUSTON TO 2.5 S GARRETT

APR 28 OHIO COUNTY - 5W CENTERTOWN TO HARTFORD, F1 TORNADO WITH 9.5 MILE PATH LENGTH

APR 28 HARDIN COUNTY - 2W RADCLIFF TO RADCLIFF, ON GROUND 2 MILES

APR 28 EDMONSON COUNTY - 2E BROADWAY TO 5 E BROADWAY, F1 TORNADO

MAY 1: HAILSTORM WITH HAIL UP TO THE SIZE OF SOFTBALLS POUNDED PULASKI, ROCKCASTLE AND LAUREL COUNTIES

MAY 2: FLOOD A 24 YEAR OLD MAN WAS KILLED AFTER THE VEHICLE HE WAS STRANDED IN WAS SWEEPED AWAY AT+ THE TUG FORK OF THE BIG SANDY RIVER IN PIKE COUNTY.

AUG 14 JEFFERSON COUNTY IN - JUST SW DEPUTY TO 4 NE DEPUTY, F1 TORNADO

OCT 4 JEFFERSON COUNTY KY - F0 4 NE LOUISVILLE ON AND NEAR OHIO RIVER

OCT 4 JEFFERSON COUNTY KY - 6E LOUISVILLE F1 TORNADO DOWN BRIEFLY

NOV 10 ALLEN COUNTY - F1 TORNADO FROM TN THROUGH NEW ROE

NOV 10 CASEY COUNTY - F0 TORNADO 5 SE JACKTOWN, BRIEF TOUCHDOWN

NOV 10 LINCOLN COUNTY - FO TORNADO 3 SE HUSTONVILLE, ON ANGEL RIDGE

NOV 10: STRAIGHT LINE WINDS EXCEEDING 80 MPH DESTROYED A FELLOWSHIP HALL OF A CHURCH IN MCCREARY COUNTY 130 PEOPLE WERE IN ATTENDANCE WITH NO SERIOUS INJURIES OR FATALITIES.

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## For more information

### THE KENTUCKY SEVERE STORMS PREPAREDNESS WEBSITE

<http://kyem.dma.state.ky.us>

or call 1-800-255-2587

Download severe weather information provided in this guide and learn more about disaster preparedness

Information on the web

### THE KENTUCKY MANUFACTURED HOME INSTITUTE WEBSITE (KMHC)

<http://www.kymanufhome.com>

### FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

<http://www.fema.gov>

### THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

<http://www.redcross.org>

Information by mail:

### THE KENTUCKY MANUFACTURED HOME INSTITUTE (KMHC)

2170 US HWY 127 SOUTH

FRANKFORT, KY 40601

### KENTUCKY DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1 MINUTEMAN PKWY

BOONE NATIONAL GUARD CENTER

FRANKFORT, KY 40601

### THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

LOUISVILLE AREA CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 1675

LOUISVILLE, KY 40201

### NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICES

Louisville National Weather Service, 6201 Theiler Lane, Louisville, KY 40229

Paducah National Weather Service, 8250 Hwy 3520, West Paducah, KY 42086

Jackson National Weather Service, 1329 Airport Rd., Jackson, KY 41339-9500

Wilmington National Weather Service, 1901 S. St. Rte. 134, Wilmington, OH 45177

Charleston National Weather Service, 400 Parkway Rd., Charleston, WV 25309

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lmk>

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah>

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/jkl>

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/iln/iln.htm>

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/rlx>

# be a Storm Survivor

## KENTUCKY DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AREA OFFICES

### AREA 1

Box 583  
Mayfield, KY 40266-0583  
Phone: (270) 247-9712  
Fax: (270) 247-4072

### AREA 2

Box 1050  
Hopkinsville, KY 42241-1050  
Phone: (270) 889-6004  
Fax: (270) 889-6005

### AREA 3

Box 2033  
Owensboro, KY 42302-2033  
Phone: (270) 687-7008  
Fax: (270) 687-7009

### AREA 4

920 Morgantown Rd., Room 136  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-3644  
Fax: (270) 746-7804

### AREA 5

Box 911  
Elizabethtown, KY 42702  
Phone: (270) 766-5071  
Fax: (270) 766-5072

### AREA 6

2729 Crittenden Dr.  
Phone: (502) 636-0439  
Fax: (502) 638-9524

### AREA 7

Box 67, 183 Beaver Rd.  
Walton, KY 41094-0067  
Phone: (859) 485-4134  
Fax: (859) 485-1147

### AREA 8

Box 583  
Mayfield, KY 40266-0583  
Phone: (270) 247-9712  
Fax: (270) 247-4072

### AREA 9

Box 1595  
Prestonsburg, KY 41653-1595  
Phone: (606) 886-9157  
Fax: (606) 886-1386

### AREA 10

782 Dawahare Dr.  
Hazard, KY 41701-9420  
Phone: (606) 435-6012  
Fax: (606) 435-6130

### AREA 11

Box 1486  
National Guard Armory  
Middlesboro, KY 40965-1486  
Phone: (606) 248-7776  
Fax: (606) 242-3450

### AREA 12

Box 495  
109 Grand Ave.  
Somerset, KY 40209-1199  
Phone: (606) 677-4133  
Fax: (606) 677-4145

### AREA 13

Box 4288  
Lexington, KY 40544-4288  
Phone: (859) 246-2334  
Fax: (859) 246-2338

### AREA 14

Division of Emergency Management  
EOC Building, Boone Center  
Frankfort, KY 40601



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